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Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB 5926: An Act Concerning Performance Standards for the Operation of the
Danbury Rail Line

HB 6333: An Act Authorizing Special Tax Obligation Bonds of the State to Upgrade
the Danbury Branch of Metro-North

HB 6350: An Act Concerning an Expansion of Commuter Rail Lines to the Town of
New Milford

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express support of House Bills 5926, 6333, and 6350 advocating improvements to the Danbury Branch Line. This line has the potential to fulfill more local mass transportation objectives, if the service was improved.

My family and I are fortunate to live less than a mile from the Branchville station. I work in Wilton, also within walking distance to the Wilton train station and my husband works in Norwalk within walking distance to the South Norwalk station. Similarly, my son attends WestConn which has a train station near the central campus. We are great candidates to utilize the Danbury line to meet our needs to travel within our surrounding communities and reduce our vehicular burden on area streets.

Unfortunately, we cannot make use of the Danbury line due to its poor reliability and too few trains. Late trains and train schedules incompatible with local commuting create obvious problems meeting work and school commitments. Consequently, every day the three of us get in our cars to drive less than 10 miles each to destinations that should have been reached by train.

I strongly urge the committee to consider how the current level of service is in fact self defeating and correct those deficiencies. More trains that reliably show up at more stations will bring more ridership.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Sesto